

Interview with Mrs. Lillian Van Winkle  
Conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson  
and Mrs. Karen Sheridan - June 2, 1976

TAPE 1 - SIDE 1 & 2

SHERIDAN: Mrs. Van Winkle, would you state your full name for our records and tell us how long you've lived in the valley?

VAN WINKLE: My name is Lillian Rockwell Van Winkle. I've lived in the valley since 1918. I was away for a short time but back.

SHERIDAN: You told us that you use to be a kindergarten teacher. So I'm sure that you know all about the early education of the valley.

VAN WINKLE: I do. My husband's family came to the this valley in 1918 I think, maybe earlier. We're pioneers in the valley in San Fernando, the town of San Fernando...the Van Winkle's.

DODSON: Where were you born Mrs. Van Winkle?

VAN WINKLE: In Ohio, out of Cincinnati...Wyoming, Ohio.

DODSON: Then how old were you when you first came to the valley?

VAN WINKLE: I think about my late '80s. And I'm 91 now plus a half year.

DODSON: You don't mean in your late '80s...that you came to the valley for the first time.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, I lived in San Fernando.

DODSON: Oh, the '80s you came to the valley. It wouldn't be quite right would it? You came for the first time in 1918.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, I gave you the wrong. 1918. Yes.

DODSON: Were you old enough at that time to remember much about how the valley was 1918?

VAN WINKLE: It was a beautiful, open valley. Lovely stretches of beauty to me because I'd lived in Chicago which is so crowded in all directions. It was a joy.

DODSON: What part of the valley did you live in?

VAN WINKLE: In San Fernando itself. And I came to the San Fernando Hotel there and lived and had my meals at mother Van Winkle's, who had lived here since 1887.

DODSON: I see. She was your mother or you're grandmother?

VAN WINKLE: My mother-in-law. I lived at the hotel...my mother was back east and has been out here since I was here but has passed away quite a few years ago.

DODSON: Can you tell us a little bit about how the town of San Fernando has changed? What it was like when you first came here?

VAN WINKLE: It was a lovely big open country all about it. And the town had settled and was a town of itself but not anything like it grew to be...crowded and so forth. But to me, coming from Chicago a crowded city, it was heaven...literally.

DODSON: I can imagine. Do you remember some of the early families that lived there? Do you remember any of the Mexican/American families?

VAN WINKLE: I knew them because I taught in the Mexican quarter and knew quite a few but I cannot recall the names, I'm sorry.

DODSON: We interviewed one member of the Lopez family. I don't know if you remember any of Lopez family.



VAN WINKLE: Oh yes, I remember them very well. They were quite a sizeable family as I recall. And at that time the sister of the man I married, Mrs. May Van Winkle, had been principal there in the grammar school before she married and moved away.

DODSON: Well now you went to school yourself as a child in San Fernando, did you not?

VAN WINKLE: No, I came out there an older person. I think because I was born in 1885, that's a good many years back. I taught in Chicago for quite a few years. I had a long trip to take. Two Russian Jewish children and loved them. I taught there for six years and then came here.

DODSON: Then you were an adult when you came here. You were not a child?

VAN WINKLE: Oh yes, I think I was in the late '30s but I frankly have forgotten.

DODSON: Can you tell us a little bit about your first teaching here? What sort of students did you have? What sort of a school was it?

VAN WINKLE: I taught in the practically Mexican school over on...well from me, it was the other side of town and mostly Mexican children and I just loved them.

DODSON: Do you speak Spanish yourself?

VAN WINKLE: No, very little. But we talked English.

DODSON: And they were able to understand you well enough to get along?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, because they wanted to learn English in the school. They spoke, of course, Spanish at home but when they came there they spoke English, because that was their desire to learn English.

DODSON: Did you find that they were a well behaved courteous group of children?

VAN WINKLE: Very well behaved. I had no trouble of discipline whatsoever.

DODSON: I found them very likeable people myself and I'm glad to hear you say those things.

VAN WINKLE: I was very fond of them as a type of people because they were so good to me and so thoughtful

of me in every way. Very considerate and wanted to help in any way they could. Help their children to get the best out of schooling.

DODSON: Do you recall what sort of things you taught them in kindergarten at that time?

VAN WINKLE: Regular kindergarten things that I use to teach. Just the getting acquainted more with little children. It's their first contact with school and they have to learn how to take care of themselves to be with others, that many. Because we had crowded rooms.

DODSON: I could imagine that it would be a problem just to get them not to talk all the time or run around the room and that sort of thing.

VAN WINKLE: Might at first but they expected to...evidently their parents...I always felt were back of the teachers...wanted to help in every way. That was my experience with them. And I think they had talked over these things with the children before they came to school because it was very little of a problem to have them cooperate, one with the other.



DODSON: Of course, I think little children of that age are very appreciative of everything done for them.

VAN WINKLE: I think so too and I found it to be that way definitely. I've always thought if I didn't teach in college then I'd prefer elementary school as the second choice. High school and junior high I want no part of.

VAN WINKLE: I know and many say that.

DODSON: I go for one extreme or the other.

VAN WINKLE: Well, kindergarten really was my life. I loved it. I loved the contact with little children because they'd come ready to learn. They want to learn. They want to do what's right. I didn't have a discipline problem, very little, I would say. Of course, you have some but very little. Until they learn to be careful of one another and considerate of one another.

DODSON: Well, when they first entered your school did they know practically no English? Were you able to give directions in English to them?

VAN WINKLE: I think the parents had tried to give them a little English as much as they could. But many of course probably came with the feeling that they want to speak in English when they come because the parents were back of them, wanted them to do that. I think the parents realized that situation. At least they did for me.

DODSON: Can you tell us anything about social life in the valley when you first got here? How does it differ from what we do for amusements, recreation?

VAN WINKLE: Well, I lived quite a normal life. I lived in the Porter Hotel and took my meals at mother Van Winkle's because her daughter had been a teacher and she would take two or three teachers for meals because of that daughter's love of teaching and had moved away. And so I had the hotel life where I was located and then went for meals at mother Van Winkle's and she was mother Van Winkle.

VAN WINKLE: You speak of the Porter Hotel. I presumed that was named for the Porter's who were early pioneers.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, they were. And many of the teachers at that time lived there and then would take their meals,



some of there and some elsewhere. Later I took my meals there.

SHERIDAN: Mrs. Van Winkle, before you became a teacher could you tell us about where you went to college here in California to get your teacher's certification?

VAN WINKLE: I went to I think had the university training here. My original college, I went to Welles College, in Aurora, New York, just for the year because my father became ill and passed away and I returned home that following year.

SHERIDAN: Where did you receive your Bachelor of Arts degree?

VAN WINKLE: I think at Occidental College. And I guess I received my Master's from there too.

SHERIDAN: Now that's here in California, Occidental College.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, over in Eagle Rock. And I had the University of California, some classes too. We'd go in at night.

DODSON: I think we still have a requirement now that even if a person gets a degree elsewhere he has to take

a course in American Government and California Government here.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, you do.

DODSON: The joke of it is that I taught Government in Texas at Texas A&M and then when I came here I found that I either had to take a course in my own course or else take an exam. So I took the exam.

VAN WINKLE: It's sounds perfectly familiar. I had had Elementary Education but I had to go through the whole business.

DODSON: What do you feel has been changes in the methods of recreation and that sort of thing? Or do you feel there have been?

VAN WINKLE: Do you mean in connection with school?

DODSON: No. What did you do when you weren't teaching?

VAN WINKLE: Well, as I say, I lived at the Porter Hotel and through friends whom I would meet there and at mother Van Winkle's because she would take two or three for meals and that sort of a thing and all together you'd get together with a group and I was

taken care of because then I took courses you see after my teaching and to get my degrees and so forth and also on Saturdays. And so I kept pretty busy.

DODSON: You began teaching before you got your degrees, all of them?

VAN WINKLE: Oh yes, because I had taught in Chicago, six years. Taking a trip of an hour and a half to get to my school and I taught Russian Jewish children. Brilliant children and just a joy. I loved them.

DODSON: What sort of religious life did you have here in the valley at that time? Were you a member of one of the churches here?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, I've been a member always since I came to the Methodist church. My grandparents were Methodists, my family were. And I attained it. I took it over and I've been perfectly content in that church. And belonged here wherever I have moved.

DODSON: Do you think there is any kind of a religious change now? Do you think that people were more



religious when you first came to the valley then they are now? Do you see any difference?

VAN WINKLE: In actual contact with them, I don't see too much. I know that I've attended the churches wherever I've moved and I taught not only in San Fernando but in...what is way out? Canoga Park. It wasn't that then but that's where it was.

DODSON: I was trying to think, didn't they call that Owensmouth?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, that's the one I'm trying to think of. It was Owensmouth when I taught there. And I taught kindergarten. I don't know whether I taught some 1st grade there or not.

DODSON: Do you recall when they changed the name from Owensmouth to Canoga Park?

VAN WINKLE: I know they did, but I can't tell you. I could say around '18 but I don't know. I'm not at all sure of that date.

DODSON: I'm just curious to know when they made some of these changes and why they made them and where these names came from?

VAN WINKLE: No, I frankly can't tell you that, I'm sorry.

DODSON: On an old map we also discovered there was an area called Zellzah and there was a town called Marion. Do you remember that?

VAN WINKLE: Marion was...I know the name but I can't think...I lived there.

DODSON: Oh, is that right?

VAN WINKLE: Later, yes, after I married and I married into the Van Winkle family. I have lived in the Porter Hotel and taken my meals at mother Van Winkle's because her daughter earlier had been a teacher in the San Fernando Grammar and later a principal of the San Fernando Grammar school and then she married and moved away. And so mother Van Winkle was always good to teachers and would take them in if they were stranded.

DODSON: Did you ever personally meet any members of the Porter family.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, I did. But I can't tell you now about them. I met them. Practically a lot of them I think all

together, there's several. I think I had a Porter book. Now I can't tell you.

DODSON: Can you tell us what happened to the Porter Hotel. It's not standing now is it?

VAN WINKLE: I frankly can't tell you. I haven't been over there and I lived at the Porter Hotel at that time. And I say took my meals at mother Van Winkle's and then in the summer I lived at mother Van Winkle's for the summer time.

DODSON: Do you remember the location of the Porter Hotel in San Fernando?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, it's on Brand Blvd.

DODSON: It was on Brand. And do you remember the intersection?

VAN WINKLE: Near...it was the far end...but I can't think of the names.

DODSON: There's the east end or the west end? See Brand runs east and west, doesn't it, as I recall?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, but I think we were near Brand Blvd.



DODSON: I'm not exactly an authority...

VAN WINKLE: It was on Mission Blvd., which is about three blocks from Brand or four I think along in there. I lived at the Porter Hotel on Brand and well almost to the railroad. What is that main street there?

DODSON: I'm just not quite up on my streets in San Fernando. I'm just not sure.

VAN WINKLE: Well I frankly have just lost it in memory.

DODSON: Oh San Fernando Road is close to the railroad somewhere there.

VAN WINKLE: Well, maybe that was it. I kind of have a feeling it was along the railroad. I think that was it.

DODSON: Do you remember the name of the elementary school where you taught?

VAN WINKLE: I think it was...I was going to say the Van Nuys or San Fernando Grammar.

DODSON: I see. There probably was just one school at that time.

VAN WINKLE: And then later I taught on the other side of town. Because I married there and probably it will come to me, I can't remember now.

DODSON: Did you ever had any particular interest in doing anything other than teaching? Did you hold any other kind of positions after you came here?

VAN WINKLE: Not that I recall. But maybe I did, I frankly can't remember. It's been a good many years. And this old lady is getting old.

DODSON: Now, you mustn't say things like that.

VAN WINKLE: Well, you get in your 90s you feel kind of old. But I'm 91-1/2.

DODSON: Well, that just means that you've had a chance to see more things than some of the rest of us have seen so far.

VAN WINKLE: I have no complaint about my life. I've been very fortunate. My father was a railroad official and I could get different places with passes.

DODSON: You came here in 1918. Was that right after World War I then? The war ended officially with the Armistice I guess on November 11th.

VAN WINKLE: Yes it did. It seems to me I came a little before the end. You see my memory has slipped I'm sorry.

DODSON: Well, don't worry about that. I tell Karen that I still can't make any connection between names and faces and that would apply to some of my students that I just had a year ago.

VAN WINKLE: I know what you're talking about.

DODSON: I went to a banquet last night and sat at a table with someone who told me she was one of my former students which astounded me.

VAN WINKLE: Well, I've been astounded too that way.

DODSON: I don't know whether you have this problem or not but one that I do, is to meet someone who knows me perfectly and I haven't the remotest idea who it is I'm talking to.

VAN WINKLE: I haven't gone through the same thing. I do have, I say falling of the brain every so often.



DODSON: I don't think that's it. I think that we have so many hundreds of people that we meet in our classes that we just can't remember all of them.

VAN WINKLE: I think you're right there because you go from one class to another and you collect so many people that you try to remember them all but you simply can't after a limited time.

DODSON: That's certainly true. We suggested several things here of historic events that have happened in the history of the valley. Now you came in after the water first came in. You were probably here when the San Franciscito Dam broke. Do you remember that? I think that was about 1927, I'm not quite sure of the year.

VAN WINKLE: I think I do. But I can't remember details of it in any way, I'm sorry.

DODSON: One thing that I imagine you do remember, especially coming from the east, would be our earthquakes. Now those made an impression, didn't they?

VAN WINKLE: They made a deep impression on me.

DODSON: Did you feel a desire to go back to Chicago after the first one?

VAN WINKLE: Like the children said, "Mrs. Van Winkle, I'm shakilng." God love them. You know I always taught kindergarten and they had lovely words for lots of things.

DODSON: Well, you missed the first big one in San Francisco that I understand was felt here. I guess the first...

VAN WINKLE: What year?

DODSON: That would have been 1906, before you came.

VAN WINKLE: Yes, I did.

DODSON: Then was the first one that you felt the Long Beach Quake in '33?

VAN WINKLE: No, it seemed to me...didn't I come in '18, didn't I say?

SHERIDAN: 1918.

VAN WINKLE: 1918, wasn't there one in that vicinity at that time? I can't remember.

DODSON: I don't recall hearing of a major one at that time. Of course...

VAN WINKLE: I frankly can't remember and I'm sorry. My memory has slipped. I realized that when you wrote me then. I was afraid I wouldn't give you too much of facts.

DODSON: Oh, you're doing find in giving us what we want. Of course, we have fairly constant small shakes but I was thinking of the major ones. I don't remember hearing of one between 1906 and 1933 that was a major quake but maybe there have been some.

VAN WINKLE: Well, you know I will say honestly that any quake impressed me. I wasn't use to...having lived in Chicago...to quakes.

DODSON: Well I was impressed but I never got scared till the '71 quake and I admit I was scared on that one.



VAN WINKLE: Well I remember one of the children...the first quake I endured...he said, "My body is shakiling." And it was shakiling. And I said, "Mine is too."

DODSON: Well, you probably remember the one for Long Beach in 1933 then. That probably was felt pretty strongly here I understand.

VAN WINKLE: As I remember, yes. But I frankly have lost so much of memory that I realize today that I'm not too much satisfaction in going back because I can't remember details.

DODSON: I expect you remember the one in '71. The Sylmar Quake.

VAN WINKLE: I remember standing by the wall and I was going this way. And it was something. I thought I was going to break the wall down but I didn't.

DODSON: Well, I didn't worry much about whether I was going to break the wall. I was more worried about whether the wall was going to break on me.

VAN WINKLE: Well, I had a little feeling about the wall itself too.

DODSON: Were you living here at Prell Gardens at that time?

VAN WINKLE: I think not. I have boarded across the street up at the...down near the corner of Vanowen. I know it so well but I can't think of it.

DODSON: You were living in this general area though at the time?

VAN WINKLE: Yes. And it seemed to me I was here for this last one. When was that...this last quake?

DODSON: We haven't had a strong one since 1971 I don't think. We've had some smaller ones, yes.

VAN WINKLE: Wherever I was I can see myself standing by the wall and going this way. And I was appalled because in Chicago I wasn't use to too many quakes.

DODSON: Karen can hardly wait to experience her first one.

VAN WINKLE: You haven't? I'm just as happy you haven't.

DODSON: I was waiting for her to slap me for saying that.

VAN WINKLE: I tell you that when you realize suddenly that the whole earth about you is shaking, you get to a wall and get to holding onto something...as much as you can.

DODSON: Do you remember anything else that you would consider an important historic event since you've lived in the valley? That made an impression on you that you'd like to tell us about?

VAN WINKLE: I'm sorry.

DODSON: Do you remember the Great Depression of 1929 and how it may have affected you or your friends here in the valley?

VAN WINKLE: Well, I think it did affect all of us wherever we were. But I have always lived on a teacher's salary and they're not too large. And I know that you live pretty close to that.

DODSON: There's one thing nice about them, they continue to come in.

VAN WINKLE: And that is a real help. You count on them and you get them. And I feel most grateful for that

teacher's salary. I have no complaint about it ever.

DODSON: I feel the same way.

VAN WINKLE: Do you? Well, I feel that I'm blessed when I can have that because you feel it's a steady thing and you're going to get it.

DODSON: Based on the interviews I've had I don't think the valley must have suffered too much during the depression. Because everyone that I've talked to seems to feel that he came through it pretty well in this particular area.

VAN WINKLE: Well I just lived on the modest salary that I've had since I've retired. I was trying to think the year I retired...it's a good many years back. But I've been able to meet my obligations. So I have no complaint about the salary. I have the early salaries because I was teaching here pretty far back. But I've gotten along.

DODSON: Do you happen to remember how the salary scale ran when you got your first job?



VAN WINKLE: Frankly I don't. May I could look it up sometime and let you know but I can't remember.

DODSON: I got my first job teaching in Denver, Colorado. I'm from Colorado originally. My first job paid \$100 a month. That was after I got two college degrees.

VAN WINKLE: Well, I think mine was \$80 something and I had college degrees and kept going to college. Because I always was taking courses. In Chicago I'd go quite a distance to get my degree...to get my courses after school, after teaching. And I did it here. I use to go over to Occidental and I got my degree from Occidental. My Bachelor's and was on my last semester for my Master's and my husband was ill. It was much more important than that degree.

DODSON: I can well imagine that's true. Can you tell us anything about fashions in the valley? How you think they may have changed through the years and whether that's good or bad?

VAN WINKLE: No, I can't. In your note you had fashions but I have no remembrance. I just wear what I have and use it. I'm not much of a fashion plate.

DODSON: Well, I thought maybe you'd tell us how much you disapprove of the fashions at the present time.

VAN WINKLE: No, I think there are many people that it means a lot to and if that's important to them, so alright. But it doesn't mean too much to me. I just do what I can and try to keep up fairly well and that's it.

SHERIDAN: I'm feeling ill, I'm sorry. So I think I'm going to go sit in the car and just whenever your through. (MORE INCIDENTAL CONVERSATION)

DODSON: Would you say Mrs. Van Winkle, that the problems of crime and morality have changed in the valley since you've taught. Do you see a difference on those things?

VAN WINKLE: I really do not know about that. I've lived very closely in the last few years to my boarding places and I frankly I do glance at the paper but that's practically all.

DODSON: Some people have told us that 20 or 30 years ago they never hesitated to go out and walk around in the valley and now they're afraid to go out after dark. And I wonder...

VAN WINKLE: I hear such things occasionally from different ones that they do not go out. But I have not had the experience because being alone and elderly that I just don't go out at night unless with somebody.

DODSON: So this would not be a matter that you wouldn't know about personally?

VAN WINKLE: No, exactly.

DODSON: Do you see a great change in living conditions in the valley than when you first came here?

VAN WINKLE: I know I read this but I do not get out enough to frankly know. I do go to an organization I belong to. I go to my church and beyond that, I don't get away very much. I'm quite lame and various difficulties at my age but very content.

DODSON: When you came out to the valley and in the early part of your residence here, did you know any of the pioneer families? I remember asking you about the Porter's, you knew some of them. Did you know any of the Lankershim's or the Van Nuys or the Whitsett's?

VAN WINKLE: I did because I had them in school, different ones. It seemed to me I had both of those families, the Porter's and so forth. But I frankly can't remember detail. That's my difficulty and I'm sorry I can't be of service in that direction.

DODSON: Oh that's quite alright. As I told you I can't remember many of my students myself.

VAN WINKLE: And I know that I've been very happy in this valley from the time I came and enjoyed my teaching fully. But I can't recall detail.

DODSON: Do you remember any of the historic buildings in the valley? We've talked about the Porter Hotel. Do you remember any other...

VAN WINKLE: I lived in the Porter Hotel for a while. That's the one in San Fernando and took my meals at mother Van Winkle's and in that way met the one man I married. He came from the north where he was living.

DODSON: What church did you go to at that time?

VAN WINKLE: The Methodist Church is there.



DODSON: Was that a church in San Fernando?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, in San Fernando.

DODSON: Do you happen to recall whether that church is still standing?

VAN WINKLE: I don't because I haven't been closely. I go perhaps to a particular home, something of that sort but I'm taken and then I don't know the details of the town as it stands.

DODSON: Do don't recall where that church was located at the time that you were there.

VAN WINKLE: I went there.

DODSON: We're trying to run down as many historic sites as we can of where places were.

VAN WINKLE: I always attended the Methodist Church and there was just one there as I recall at the time but I can't locate it in my mind, I'm sorry.

DODSON: I imagine many of the people there belong to the Catholic church rather than the Protestant church.

VAN WINKLE: They did, many belong to the Catholic church. I know that I had so many little children whose parents go to the Catholic church and who would go to Catholic meetings and so forth for little children but beyond that I can't tell you.

DODSON: Can you think of some significant event or anecdote that we haven't asked about that you think should be perpetuated for all time in the future?

VAN WINKLE: I wish I could but I've just plain forgotten.

DODSON: I see. Well, is there anything else that we haven't asked about that you would like to mention? I can imagine that we have omitted a lot of things which you might feel were significant.

VAN WINKLE: I remember we use to go to the old Mission for meetings and gatherings occasionally when I was living in San Fernando. I lived at the Porter Hotel and as I say, took my meals at mother Van Winkle's who's daughter had been a teacher in San Fernando and later the principal there then married and moved away. And so they took me to many things.

DODSON: Can you remember what some of those meetings at the Mission were like.

VAN WINKLE: They were unusual to me because I'd been raised in the city like Chicago. And they were very delightful. They were just precious folks there. All glad to be in the Mission and I think there was a feeling of great, well divine understanding. They loved to be there in the Mission as a Mission.

DODSON: They probably had things other than purely religious functions. They had fiestas, maybe did they?

VAN WINKLE: Yes, they had fiestas. And they were interesting. We always attended all fiestas and anything connected with the different...with the Mission in any way. Because they were always of interest and folks went there.

DODSON: So you didn't have to be of Mexican/American descent or speak Spanish to attend those?

VAN WINKLE: No, and everyone even speaking Spanish, they were generous in their welcome to you. I enjoyed every Spanish affair that I attended and loved them

because it was all new to me as a city member in Chicago.

DODSON: I imagine there would have been dancing in connection with those, wasn't there?

VAN WINKLE: There was dancing and singing their songs and all that and I loved it.

DODSON: I'm wondering if they still have those fiestas, or do you know?

VAN WINKLE: Frankly I don't know, no I don't, I'm sorry.

DODSON: Do you have any other recollections of your own that you would like to record?

VAN WINKLE: Nothing except I'm so happy I'm in California.

DODSON: Well I think that's a very good thing to add. In other words, in spite of the earthquakes here in the valley, you'd rather be here than Chicago?

VAN WINKLE: I'd much rather be here than in Chicago. I loved this valley from the time I came here. I loved the feeling of the settlers. Their feeling of loving this valley and I loved it as a new person



coming into it. In a life that I had never experienced...a type of life that I had never experienced.

DODSON: Then you feel that there was a real love for the valley that that would characterize the people here that they did like it so much.

VAN WINKLE: I felt that, yes...I felt that. I don't think they would have attended these things at the Mission and elsewhere if there hadn't been that feeling of love for the valley. I haven't been to many affairs in the last few years because it's been physically hard for me to attend things of that type but occasionally I do go with friends who take me. And I enjoy every meeting.

DODSON: Well, thank you very much Mrs. Van Winkle, we have greatly enjoyed being here and enjoyed hearing your reminiscences about the valley.

VAN WINKLE: Well, I thank you for letting me participate in this day but I don't feel that I have given too much because I was a total stranger to this type of thing. But I've been happy from the time I came here and every contact with the old members of the valley. I had many friends here.

DODSON: I understand there's to be an old timers picnic on Sunday. Have you ever attended any of those?

VAN WINKLE: Yes I have. And enjoyed them very much because everybody enters in with a friendliness and consideration, one for the other. But I haven't heard about this one. I don't know anything about it.

DODSON: I see. Well, it was my understanding it was to be in Reseda Park. Is that a place you have attended...

VAN WINKLE: Oh yes. I lived in Reseda. I've lived in San Fernando and then I moved to Reseda and then to Van Nuys.

DODSON: I see. Well, thank you very much Mrs. Van Winkle for your willingness to allow us to come here and to make this recording.

VAN WINKLE: I think you're very good to take in a stranger from Chicago but she's loved this valley.

DODSON: Well, after you told us that you came in 1918, I don't think we should call you a stranger anymore. I didn't get here to about 1945.

VAN WINKLE: Is that so? Well, I've been in this valley and loved every year of it because I love the valley as the valley and I've had nothing but friendliness and I taught here you see so many years in San Fernando first, in Canoga Park and then here.

DODSON: Well, thank you very much.

VAN WINKLE: You're certainly welcome and I thank you for letting me share.

DODSON: You have been listening to an interview with Mrs. Lillian Van Winkle, age ninety-one. Mrs. Van Winkle came to this valley as she said in 1918. This interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, Curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Mrs. Karen Sheridan, Field Deputy to Dr. Dodson in establishing this museum. The date is Wednesday, June 2, 1976.

Transcribed by Blue Ribbon Secretarial - 3/21/99